

Creating a new industry for New Mexico

Adding to Economic Development Supporting rural communities in a sustainable way

New Mexico stands at the threshold of an opportunity which will revitalize our economy and our rural communities. Industrial Hemp, (which is **not marijuana**), is the crop that can bring this revitalization.

Industrial Hemp is a versatile plant. Industry estimates say Industrial Hemp is currently used in approximately 25,000 different products across the globe. The Hemp Industries Association estimates the total retail value of hemp products in 2012 was over \$500 million. Hemp-based food and supplements alone reached about \$171 million that year.

(Reference: [http://www.votehemp.com/PR/2013-02-25-hia_\\$500_million_annual_sales.html](http://www.votehemp.com/PR/2013-02-25-hia_$500_million_annual_sales.html))

The recently passed US Farm Bill, H.R. 2642, including the Polis/Massey hemp amendment (HR 525), allows colleges and universities, and now also State Agriculture Departments, (per the conference committee revisions), to grow Industrial Hemp for academic or agricultural research purposes. However this applies only to states where Industrial Hemp farming is already legal under state law. New Mexico does not have such a law.

The New Mexico Industrial Hemp Coalition believes that Industrial Hemp has the potential to revitalize our agricultural community, rural economy and the economy of New Mexico in general. We will work during the 2015 Legislative Session for legislation that will legalize the farming of Industrial Hemp in New Mexico, opening the door for New Mexico to be an active participant in the (re) emerging Industrial Hemp economy.

We thank you for your support.

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